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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
IMPRESSION UNIT TRAINING MANUAL	Effective Date: 30-March-2004

XIV LEGAL ASPECTS OF IMPRESSION IDENTIFICATION

14.1 PURPOSE

- 14.1.1 To acquaint the student with the reasons why demonstrative exhibits are often beneficial during expert testimony to footwear and tire track impression identifications, and to acquaint the student with a variety of methods for preparing such visual aids.
- 14.1.2 To acquaint the student with the legal aspects of forensic identification as it pertains to impressions. Further, to familiarize the student with significant court cases involving impression identifications.

14.2 OBJECTIVES

- 14.2.1 The student will attain:
 - A familiarization with the nature of proof, and the reasons for the lack of specific requirements for the number of matching characteristics necessary to effect an identification.
 - Familiarization with precedent setting legal cases involving impression identification.
 - The ability to construct a court chart demonstrating an impression identification; and a familiarization with both traditional and untraditional methods of demonstrating such a chart.
 - Familiarization with proper courtroom demeanor, method of delivery of presentation while demonstrating court charts, and demeanor during stress provoking situations on the witness stand.

14.3 **GOAL**

14.3.1 Upon completion of this training segment the student will possess knowledge and understanding enabling him to effectively present expert testimony about impression examinations.

14.4 DISCUSSION

- 14.4.1 Subject matter in this segment addresses three major areas:
 - 1. The general parts of effective impression testimony which are legally and logically required.
 - 2. The technical and theoretical pitfalls which beset Impression Examiners attacked by well coached attorneys.
 - 3. The basic human aspects of presenting testimony in a manner that sounds believable and knowledgeable.

14.5 EXAMINATION

14.5.1 Successful completion of this segment of training will be determined by acceptable performance in a mock court situation as evaluated by the Supervisor of the Latent Print Section/Impression Unit, with recommendations and critique from a panel appointed by same.

14.6 REFERENCES FOR TOPIC XIV

1. Footwear Evidence, Abbott, 1956

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- 2. Footwear Impression Evidence, Bodziak, 1990, pp 383-387
- 3. Footwear Identification, Cassidy, 1980, pp 127-131, 147-158
- 4. <u>Journal of Criminology, Criminal Law and Police Science</u>, "Expert Testimony Regarding Shoe Prints", Vol. 26, No. 6, 1935-1936, pp 928-929
- 5. <u>Tire Imprint Evidence, McDonald</u>, 1989, pp 177-183
- Journal of American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, "Shoeprints: Comparison Made with Defendant's Shoes", Vol. 27, May-June 1936, March-April 1937, p 120
- 7. <u>American Journal of Police Science</u> (Journal of Criminology, Criminal Law and Police Science), "Tire Identification: Expert Testimony", Vol. 3, No. 1, pp 32-33